GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:172
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2001
INDO-FRANCE COLLABORATION IN POWER SECTOR
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and France have decided to collaborate in the crucialpower sector and Non-Conventional Energy Sources for the development of economy during the years to come;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether both the countries have identified the projects in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH P. PRABHU)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OSTARRED QUESTION NO. 172 TO BE ANSWERED IN TI LOK SABHA ON 08.03.2001 REGARDING INDO-FRANCE COLLABORATION IN POWER SECTOR.

(a) to (d) : An Indo-French Working Group on Energy was set up inFebruary, 1999 to promote bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the areas of Power, Non-conventional Energy Sources, Atomic Energy,Coal, Petroleum & Natural Gas and Water Resources. Two meetings of this Working Group have since been held, the first in March, 1999 in New Delhi,and the second in February, 2001 in Paris.

While in the first meeting, information relating to potential areas of investment in the sectors identified in the two countries were exchanged, the second meeting has identified a few specific areas of cooperation. For the power sector, the following were identified :-

(i) India and France could cooperate in Survey and Investigation of river basin hydro projects in India.

(ii) French companies could offer their bids for distribution of electricity opportunities, as and when called for by State Utilities in India.

(iii) India and France agreed topromote and support pilot demonstration projects in India for distribution and metering and energy conservation along with demand side management.

(iv) The Indian side expressed interest in French cooperation inestablishing benchmarking of costs and technology with the object of reducing cost of generated and delivered power.

(v) Exchange of information on regulatory policy process and experience.

For the Non-conventional Energy sector, the following areas were identified for Indo-French cooperation:

(a) A hybrid solar photovoltaic (SPV) project connected on gasified biomass/diesel mini grid in Sunderban Islands in West Bengal.

(b) Wind-Diesel hybrid project in Lakshadweep Islands.

(c) Bagasse Cogeneration projects.

(d) Short-term training courses for Indian specialists.

(e) Exploring the possibility of setting up of joint projects in the area of gasified biomass in third countries.